



**MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020**

**Present:** Michel Thomas (MT) – chair, Nick Brodrick (NB), Ali Bryant (AB), Rob Burkitt (RB), Robin Causley (RC), Rob Dickinson (RD), Rick Williams (RW).

<b>20/70</b>	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020</b> The minutes were tabled and approved.</p> <p>Minute 20/68 (a) – RW reported that the draft accounts for 2019/20 had been circulated to board members and approved prior to circulating with the AGM papers.</p>	
<b>20/71</b>	<p><b>Torquay United liaison</b></p> <p><b>Meeting with Dominic Mee, Media &amp; Supporter Liaison Co-ordinator</b> NB reported on the Zoom meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November and attended by MT, RW and himself. Notes of the meeting had been previously circulated.</p> <p>Memorandum of Understanding and Structured Dialogue protocol – Club directors did not consider this a priority.</p> <p>Matchday Ambassadors – there had been no response to TUST’s letter in September asking the Club to reconsider this but it had subsequently transpired that fans were unable to return. DM promised to raise this again with directors at the appropriate time.</p> <p>Streaming of home games – generally felt to be good and well received by supporters. Some constructive criticism offered around recognition of viewers from the visiting team, extended coverage and lessons from other clubs.</p> <p>Commercial opportunities – suggestions made around better use of sponsorship opportunities such as advertising during the broadcasts and positioning of advertising boards in camera shot.</p> <p>Attendance data – the Club declined to provide details of season ticket sales or viewing figures for streamed matches.</p>	

	<p>Disabled Supporter Facilities – NB provided DM with a report on how TUST may contribute to the provision of facilities. DM to forward to the Club’s Disability Liaison Officer. A particular question relates to the use of funds raised by a TUST member for the roofing of the visitors disabled area.</p> <p>Ian Twitchin Trophy – TUST had been unable to make the award to Kyle Cameron for most appearances in the curtailed 2019/20 season because of the on-going pandemic restrictions. DM offered to arrange the presentation of the shield to KC and provide photos for publicity. A presentation of the smaller trophy for KC to keep would follow when this can be done in person by TUST.</p> <p>Interview with Clarke Osborne – NB had asked DM to pass on a request for an interview with the owner to mark the fourth anniversary of his involvement. A response was awaited.</p> <p>The next meeting will be held in January.</p>	
<p><b>20/72</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p> <p><b>(b)</b></p>	<p><b>Community Outreach</b></p> <p><b>Torquay United Community Sports Trust (TUCST)</b>  MT reported that Matt Anthony had been appointed as the new TUCST manager. He was previously Jamie McInnes’ deputy. An early meeting with MA to build on existing good relations was planned.</p> <p>AB advised that £1,600 of funding allocated to TUCST from the Premier League Fans Fund (PLFF) for setting up the TQ1 Club was unspent and due to be returned. The board agreed that TUCST should be invited to identify appropriate alternative use for these funds that complied with the objectives of the PLFF.</p> <p><b>Torquay United Womens FC (TUWFC)</b>  RD advised that he had held a long conversation with Matt Green. There had been many changes at TUWFC with an influx of new players and increased interest in the team and rising attendances. The opportunities offered by the link between the girls’ teams run by TUCST and the adult team was noted.</p> <p>Whilst TUWFC aimed to be self-sufficient, the increase in members had presented an immediate issue with training kit provision. A TUST proposal to offer financial support to TUWFC at the end of the previous season as part of its commitment to community outreach had not been fully needed because the season ended early. The board unanimously agreed to make a one-off contribution of £1,000 towards new tracksuits for TUWFC which would carry the TUST logo as the main sponsor. RD to advise MG.</p>	<p>MT</p> <p>AB</p> <p>RD</p>
<p><b>20/73</b></p> <p><b>(a)</b></p>	<p><b>Media &amp; PR</b></p> <p><b>Business &amp; networking meetings</b>  MT reported on the latest meeting of the Torbay Business &amp; Chambers Network that he had attended the previous day. He will circulate a list of future meeting dates for this and other bodies and encouraged members to attend.</p>	

<b>(b)</b>	<p><b>Media</b> NB, RB and RD updated the meeting on recent activity on the Herald Express Fan Zones, social media and fans forums respectively.</p>	
<b>20/74</b>	<p><b>Supporters Groups</b></p> <p><b>(a) Football Supporters Association (FSA)</b> MT to attend the National Game Network meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> November and advised the board of the FSA AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> December. MT authorised to vote on TUST's behalf and all are invited to attend if they wish.</p> <p><b>(b) Devon Supporters Trust Group (DSTG)</b> NB provided feedback from the latest DSTG meeting which included proposals for a wider SW group. trusts' work with schools, disabled facilities, press release protocols and the Jack Leslie statue. RC had provided an interview on behalf of TUST for a podcast regarding the latter.</p>	
<b>20/75</b>	<p><b>AGM</b></p> <p>RW advised that Zoom Pro had been purchased to enable the AGM and other meetings to be held. RC had previously circulated some useful guidance on hosting AGM's online. Details of the Zoom meeting would be sent to members at the weekend.</p> <p>RW reported that there had been no member motions proposed for the meeting and no new nominations for the board so elections would not be necessary.</p> <p>The agenda was considered and roles allocated. It was agreed that RW, as Secretary, would manage the meeting with MT providing the introduction and closing comments and each member of the board reporting on their specific responsibilities.</p> <p>It was impossible to predict what the attendance might be but contingency plans were in place if it failed to reach the required quorum.</p>	RW
<b>20/76</b>	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>There was no AOB.</p>	

The date of the next meeting was fixed for Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at 6.30pm. Venue to be decided.

Chairman's signature.....Date .....